AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6 with the following marked-up paragraph.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the wound dressing 10 of the present invention preferably includes a perforated hydrophobic, skin adherent facing layer 12, an absorbent core 14, and a liquid impervious, moisture permeable backing layer 16. The wound dressing depicted in FIG. 1 is in a dry state substantially devoid of moisture. As more fully exemplified in FIG. 2, the absorbent core 14 defines a proximal surface *p* that is intended to face towards a wound surface [[w]] and a distal surface *d* that is opposed to the proximal surface *p* and faces away from a wound surface. In a basic configuration, the dressing 10 comprises the facing layer 12 secured to the proximal surface *p* of the absorbent core 14 and the backing layer 16 attached and sealed to at least part of the distal surface *d* of the absorbent core 14.

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Please insert the following paragraph on page 12, after line ~~24~~ 19.

In an exemplary embodiment, FIG. 12 shows how the facing layer 12 may be configured to have different sized apertures 34, 86. According to this embodiment, the apertures are arranged in rows wherein the large apertures 86 alternate with the smaller apertures 34.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 13 with the following marked-up paragraph.

In a preferred method, the facing layer and its apertures are formed prior to being bonded onto the absorbent core. A perforation device 42 is preferably used to form the facing layer and its apertures. As shown in FIGS. 19 and 20, the perforation device 42 includes a generally planar carrier surface 47 having a plurality of needle-like perforating elements 44 that extend a distance therefrom. The perforation device 42, including the carrier surface [[43]] 47 and the perforating elements 44, is selectively heated to a curing temperature of the silicone. The carrier surface 47 and the perforating elements 44 are coated with a release film, such as TEFLON.